

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-11 LAB-06

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DRC-01 /050 W

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P 241244Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1210

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 11511

FROM CALDWELL

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB PINS PINT ET

SUBJECT: AFL-CIO OR AALC ACTION WITH REGARD TO DETENTION OF
CELU OFFICIALS

REF: STATE 209455

1. CELU PRESIDENT BEYENE SOLOMON AND SEC GEN FISSEHA TSION TAHIE
DETAINED BY MILITARY AUTHORITIES EVENING SEPTEMBER 23 FOLLOWING
DIFFICULT CELU/AFCC NEGOTIATING SESSION (CF ADDIS 11264, ADDIS
A-191 AND ADDIS A-193).

2. DETENTION FOLLOWS CONTINUING CAMPAIGN IN MEDIA AGAINST CELU
LEADERSHIP ALLEGING IT BEHOLDEN TO ANCIEN REGIME; ACQUIESCED IN
LATTER'S EXPLOITATION OF WORKERS; WAS AND REMAINS INSTRUMENT OF
FOREIGN "IMPERIALISTS"; ETC.

3. WE STILL DISCREETLY EXPLORING EXACT STATUS OF DETAINED
LEADERS (THUS FAR IT APPEARS THAT THEY NOT RPT NOT BEING PUT
INTO SAME BAG AS OTHER OFFICIALS CURRENTLY HELD AT FOURTH
DIVISION HQ); LIKELY CELU AND UNION REACTION TO THEIR DETENTION;
RELEVANT AFCC/EMAC ATTITUDES; ETC. (SEPTTEL).

4. MISSION HAS BEEN DOING UTMOST SINCE ETHIOPIAN POLITICAL FLUX
BEGAN LAST FEBRUARY TO MAINTAIN CORRECT NON-INTERVENTION POSTURE.
DEPARTMENT WELL AWARE THAT EVERY AMERICAN STATEMENT AND GESTURE
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BEING INTENTLY SCRUTINIZED AND THAT ELEMENTS HOSTILE TO

PRESERVATION ETHIOPIA'S CLOSE RELATIONS WITH US CONTINUALLY
SEEKING DEMONSTRATE THAT US PRESENCE HERE BEING USED TO
MANIPULATE POLITICAL SITUATION TO DETRIMENT OF EPMG.

5. IN CIRCUMSTANCES, I REGRETFULLY CONCLUDE AND EMBASSY CONCURS
THAT NEITHER BEST INTERESTS OF USG NOR THOSE OF CELU AND ITS
LEADERSHIP LIKELY BE WELL SERVED BY AFL-CIO OR AALC INITIATIVES
AT THIS TIME.
WYMAN

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